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2415F USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

In re Application of:

HERMIDA

Serial No:

10/082743

Confirmation No.:

4696

Filed:

February 22, 2002

Examiner:

G. Krishnan

Group Art Unit:

1623

For: REGENERATION OF ARTICULAR CARTILAGE DAMAGED BY GRADE I AND II OSTEOARTHRITIS BY MEANS OF THE INTRAARTICULAR APPLICATION OF A MIXTURE OF SODIUM HYALURONATE AND

CHONDROITIN SULFATE IN A GEL VEHICLE

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP NON FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following remarks and amendments are responsive to the March 25, 2003, Office Action on the above-referenced application. A two month extension of the period for responding to the outstanding Office Action mailed March 25, 2003, has been requested in the accompanying PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a) AND TRANSMITTAL OF FEE UNDER 37 CFR 1.17(a)(2). In the event that Petition should become detached from this Response or otherwise become lost or misplaced, the Commissioner is requested to charge the fee for a two month extension to Deposit Account No. 501051.

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Amendment to the Abstract begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 11 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begins on page 13 of this paper.